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JOHN TERINO: Involved are 100 time cards out of approximately 100,000 time cards. General Electric has indicated its willingness to reimburse the government for any improper charges that might have been made.

TROUTE: The Pentagon could suspend its contracts with GE on the basis of the indictments alone. Convictions might cut GE's government business for up to three years. But that would be difficult, since the Pentagon relies on General Electric for everything from jet engines to washing machines.

Reaction to Major's Death

JENNINGS: The Soviet Union and the United States still disagree over why an American major was shot by a Soviet soldier in East Germany on Sunday. The Soviets said today that the death of Major Arthur Nicholson was regrettable; but, say the Soviets, he was inside a restricted zone.

In Western Europe today, the Secretary of Defense, Caspar Weinberger, clearly found that an unacceptable explanation.

Here's Dean Reynolds.

DEAN REYNOLDS: In Luxembourg for a NATO meeting, Defense Secretary Weinberger was angry over what he called the murder of Major Nicholson.

SECY. WEINBERGER: We think it was a completely unjustified act, and a very reprehensible thing in every way.

REYNOLDS: And Weinberger drew a contrast between Soviet behavior against an unarmed American soldier and the way the U.S. handles such matters.

SECY. WEINBERGER: The Soviets had an observer in our restricted area, clearly where he shouldn't have been, a few days ago. And we treated him

in a totally different way.

REYNOLDS: Weinberger was talking about an incident last Wednesday in Hof, West Germany. The Pentagon says three Soviet officers were detained by the U.S. First Armored Division as the Soviets drove through a restricted area near a West Germany military base, taking pictures as they went.

And the same thing happened January 25th during NATO's Reforger 85 military exercise in West Germany. Camera-toting Soviet observers bearing into a restricted area and being stopped.

In neither case did the Americans use force.

Under a postwar agreement, the U.S. and Soviet Union can observe each other's military presence in the two Germanys, but there are restrictions. When the Soviets violated them last week and earlier, they were simply sent back to their quarters, and their cameras were confiscated.

In private to his fellow ministers today, Weinberger likened the Nicholson shooting to the Soviet downing of Korean Airlines Flight 007 in 1983. Examples, he said, of a shoot-first-and-ask-questions-later mentality.

Nonetheless, Pentagon officials say the United States has no plans to curtail its mission in East Germany, nor to be any tougher with the Soviets in West Germany. "Our view," said one official here, "is that you take the cameras away and send them home. You don't shoot unarmed soldiers."

JOHN MCWETHY: The Soviet news agency Tass today charged that Major Nicholson had secretly approached a Soviet equipment storage area, opened a window and took pictures. The entire incident taking place inside a restricted zone.